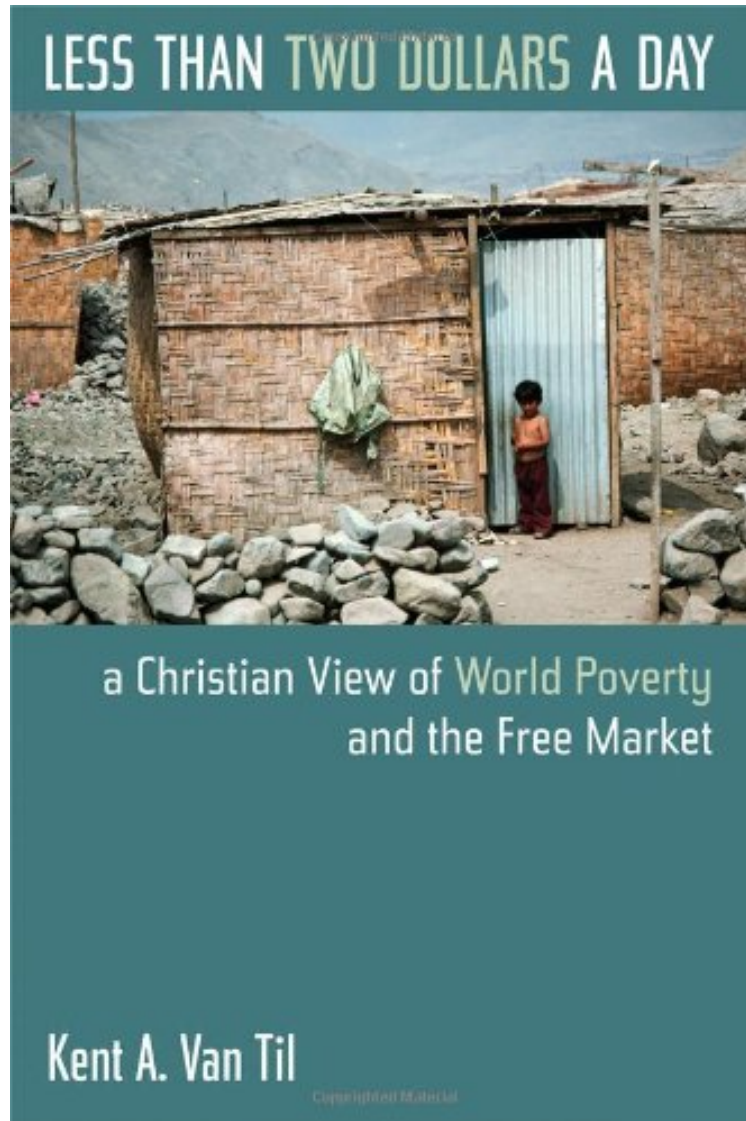


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# Less Than Two Dollars a Day: A Christian View of World Poverty and the Free Market

*Kent A. Van Til*

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**Kent A. Van Til : Less Than Two Dollars a Day: A Christian View of World Poverty and the Free Market**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Less Than Two Dollars a Day: A Christian View of World Poverty and the Free Market:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Less than 2 dollars a day By Melissa Vanderhaar Overall I really enjoyed this book. It reaffirms all of my beliefs about the Christian perspective of poverty. Many people know and

believe that poverty is awful and wrong but they feel nothing can be done. This book was able to give a detailed description of what is specifically wrong with the system that we have today, what the bible really says about poverty, and a platform to build solutions on. The book asks all of the right questions to get at the poverty matter from a Christian perspective. It gets at the heart of the matter in scripture by asking what the bible really says about poverty. There is overwhelming evidence that America is not acting like a Christian nation. Many Christians don't realize that helping the poor is not something to do just out of kindness but a commandment from God. I also liked that it asked the question of how we can begin to solve the problem. It is a very complex problem, but the question still needed to be asked because something must be done and VanTil offers real and reasonable actions that could lead to a solution. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful analysis of free market economies and poverty By Fargo As a former missionary to Costa Rica and current professor of Religion at Hope College, Van Til brings both personal experience and solid ethical scholarship into this fascinating review. His explanation of the development and nuances of free market economics is clear and well illustrated, and offers six profound reasons why poverty does not automatically disappear in these societies (worth the price of the book alone). "What the Bible Says about Poverty" is short and basic, as is Van Til's review of church history on wealth and poverty. He affirms a Kuyperian/Dooyeweerdian "sphere sovereignty" approach to social development in which government promotes social justice. Van Til sees free market economies as generally beneficial, but calls for morally invested care that redistributes perhaps \$100-200 a year from haves to assist have-nots. Putting his money where his heart is, all profits from the sale of this book will go toward poverty relief and community development. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. World Poverty and Economics 101 By M. Walker I really enjoyed this book. It is well layed out and thouroughly researched. If you don't know how we got to our economy today, this book will give you a complete picture from Adam Smith until now. You also get an in depth look at the Christian viewpoint and how the Bible intertwines with the market economies. I enjoyed reading on the concept of spheres and how we all relate to each other. The last chapter was my favorite because it really puts the world poverty problem in front of you as Van Til gives statistics about poverty and getting rid of it. Only \$100 per year per adult...interesting that it doesn't seem too far out of the realm of possibilities. This is an excellent book for anyone looking into world poverty. VanTil not only tells us about it in other countries, he tells of his first hand experiences with it in Latin America.

Christian tradition demands basic sustenance for all as a human right. Yet the contemporary capitalist economy makes no such demands, and the free market is not designed to provide basic human sustenance. As Western Christians, how ought we to solve this conundrum? Kent Van Til maintains that the gulf between the two calls for an alternative system of distribution. In this constructively critical work Van Til takes a hard look at the realities of life in a free-market system, including illuminating examples from his own experience in Latin America. He considers how the contemporary capitalist economy guides the distribution of goods around the world, and he examines the inadequacies of this system. Drawing heavily on the ideas of political theorist Michael Walzer and nineteenth-century theologian-statesman Abraham Kuyper, Van Til proposes an alternative system of distributive justice, equalizing the claims to both burdens and benefits.

David R. Befus author of Where There Are No Jobs "Kent Van Til's timely analysis of poverty and free markets allows readers to revisit basic economic theories from a distinctly Christian frame of reference. Van Til wrestles with classical economic models through an exhaustive but understandable review of the literature. He then presents a biblical understanding of economics, describing principles and citing authors that, for me, were delightfully new. Whether one agrees with his conclusions or not, this book is a fantastic resource for the current discussion about globalization and the world economic marketplace. I recommend it highly." Daniel C. Maguire Marquette University "For those befuddled by the jargon of theology and economics, this very readable book is a tour de force and a most welcome gem by an outstanding expert in both fields. Like the mission of Jesus, Kent Van Til's book is 'good news for the poor' and a stirring appeal to the consciences of Christians and other persons of goodwill." Catholic News Service "Van Til is thoughtful, dynamic and focused on results. . . [He] helpfully unpacks for neophytes some basic economics. He does this with a 'Calvinist bent,' using significant voices from his own theological tradition, but with a desire to influence a broader audience."